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15 October 1946

SUBJECT: Monthly Activity Report, September 1946
TO: The Director
FROM: Chief, Communications Division

I. CONTINENTAL USA

- A. Activities during the month of September were largely concerned with the liquidation of present SSU commitments and the arrangements for a transfer of functions to the equivalent unit within the Central Intelligence Group. Consistent with the imminent change, liaison channels are being established with all major CIG components.

A special report on the status of the Central-South American project has been submitted to the Director. Several factors have combined to slow our recruiting of Communications personnel, but it is believed that sufficient radio operator-technicians will be processed to complete the Communications portion of the overall commitment. No decision has been reached relative to the base facilities which must be established in Continental USA to handle the radio circuits necessitated by the project. When the base station question has been decided, plans, now in progress, for the actual operation of the network, will be finalized. On the basis of inventories prepared by the FBI, the Communications Division is procuring radio equipment which will replace that turned over by the FBI to our operators in Central and South America. Communications has received from the Chief, FBI, a schedule of the estimated dates for activation of the various stations.

- B. Personnel. Three additional departmental clerks have been recruited to facilitate the processing of personnel necessary to meet the large commitments in the Near East and in Central and South America. Recruitment is necessarily proceeding slowly both because of the time expended in processing forms and because of the difficulty which the Division is having in interesting skilled technicians at the salaries established for specific jobs. An attempt is being made to screen personnel in the field to avoid the high mortality in security investigations and in the introductory interviews held in Washington.

SECRET

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During the month of September, an additional three cryptographers and two radio operators were sent to [] and one cryptographer to []. Transportation for the additional cryptographer authorized for [] is scheduled for mid-October and four cryptographers are now being trained for assignment to []. At the request of FBZ, the Communications Division recruited an enlisted man who will serve with the newly-organized [] he will be trained in all aspects of Communications procedures and is due to depart about 15 November.

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Attached, as Inclosure 1, is the Monthly Strength Report, showing total civilian and military personnel assigned to the Communications Division as of 30 September 1946.

- C. Operations. An additional officer has been assigned to Operations. He is assisting with the planning of the Near East and South America nets and with the allocation of personnel and equipment for the activation of those nets.

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- D. Signal Security Control. Direct cipher communications have been successfully established with [] during the past month. In addition, changes in procedure have been initiated with [] In cooperation with State Department, the new cable payment plan, [] has been activated for all outgoing Washington traffic to SSU stations using [] for their communications, and incoming traffic [] stations in the field is also covered.

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The Cipher Training School has trained ten Communications personnel, two radio operators, and thirteen special Desk personnel who will perform Communications duties in semi-overt and overt areas.

- E. Message Center. In mid-September, some delay in the reception and transmission of [] traffic was experienced due to the typhoon which damaged Navy facilities on Guam, a main relay point for all our traffic to and from Shanghai. Normal service has now been restored.

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Total traffic handled by the Washington Message Center increased from a total of 244,988 groups during the month of August to 291,717 groups for the month of September. This represents an increase of twenty per cent in total volume. Attached, as Inclosure 2, is a chart showing total traffic handled for the period 1-30 September.

F. Signal Procurement Control. All Navy personnel have been withdrawn from the Communications Warehouse, [] and there is no immediate prospect of replacement. Activity at the Warehouse is steadily increasing due to the activation of projects requiring communications equipment.

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G. Research and Engineering. A Communications engineer is now on temporary duty in [] providing technical assistance requested by FBL.

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II. EUROPEAN AREA.

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[] General Bull, Chief of Staff, USFET, has given official sanction for the establishment of an SSU Communications Center in the []. Action has been initiated to secure a definite site to house the new Communications unit. The Communications Officer and the Radio Officer for Europe have conducted extensive surveys of properties in the [] including the Signal Corps School at Ansbach, a [] station north of [] and a former [].

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[] At this date, a final choice has not been made; thus far the only suitable sites have been unavailable and those which are available are not suited to our present requirements.

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To cope with any possible emergency before the completion of the Communications Center mentioned above, a radio station has been established at []. The emergency station consists of one transmitter, two receivers, a shop for testing and repairing equipment, and a packing room.

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Communications with [] has been successfully opened and arrangements have been completed to install TWX stations in [].

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Two enlisted men in the [] Message Center are being civilianized on or about 15 October. Replacements have been requested for an additional EM and for two civilians. The civilian replacements have been recruited and are now in training in Washington.

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Courses in radio operation and cryptographic work are being organized as a part of the overall agent training program which is scheduled to begin in [] on or about 1 November. Communications training is being coordinated with Washington.

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[] - One communications clerk has left [] P25X1A USA. She is being temporarily replaced by a clerk from [].

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[] - Training of an additional clerk for [] has been completed in Washington and transportation is scheduled on or about 15 October.

25X1A [] In view of the increase in traffic during July and
25X1A [] an additional communications clerk was processed for
[] and arrived in late September.

25X1A The detachment at [] has been officially
closed. Traffic with [] is no longer relayed through
Paris but directly with Washington.

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25X1A [] - Traffic has increased by 50% over the months of
July and August.

III. NEAR EAST

25X1A No outstanding change. During September one radio operator,
a Diesel Engineer, and the Acting Chief of the Near East
network arrived in []. An additional engineer and
operator will leave in early October.

IV. FAR EAST.

25X1A The changeover from Army to Navy facilities for traffic
between Washington and [] was accomplished without
incident or delay in communications. Traffic delays were
25X1A noted in mid-September as a result of the storm which damaged
relay facilities on Guam. There have been no changes in the
radio net in [] during the past month.

25X1A During August and September, Communications, [] lost three
officers and three civilians but gained one officer (Captain
[] Communications Officer), and nine civilian
radio operator-technicians and cryptographic clerks. In addition
to the personnel which arrived from USA, four ex-marines were
recruited in the theater and, when security has been received,
they will be assigned where needed as radio operators. The acute
shortage of radio technicians is being temporarily met by a plan
whereby those stations not adequately staffed at present receive
periodic visits of technicians from headquarters.

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Inclosures - 2

- 1 - Monthly Strength Report
- 2 - Traffic chart

MONTHLY STRENGTH REPORT

AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER

	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total August</u>
Continental U. S.	13	84	97	99
Pending Shipment O/S	1	5	6	9
	6	27	33	31
	2	6	8	6
	-	2	2	2
	<u>6</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>44</u>
Total	28	163	191	191

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MESSAGE CENTER WASHINGTON

SUMMARY OF VOLUME OF TRAFFIC

SEPTEMBER 1946

SSU Coded Traffic Relayed
Through Washington

SSU Coded Traffic Originating
In or Destined for Washington

Plain Text Domestic Telegrams
(Wire Room)

INWARD		OUTWARD		TOTAL	
MSGS	GRPS	MSGS	GRPS	MSGS	GRPS
803	105,817	890	99,987	1,693	205,804
269	30,803	409	55,110	678	85,913
20	706	77	1,484	97	2,190